

**SUMMARY OF THE  
PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2000**

The Proficiency Testing Committee of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) met by teleconference, on Tuesday, February 22, 2000. The meeting was led by its chair, Ms. Barbara Burmeister of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene. *The main purpose of this meeting was to finalize the combined PT Fields of Testing and Acceptance Criteria (EPA National Standards and NELAC PT FOT tables), discuss PT sample matrix issues and other PTOB/PTPA programs, schedule the committee's upcoming face-to-face meeting, and address additional comments and questions received.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The status of the Action Items from the teleconference on February 8, 2000 is as follows:

- Mr. Chuck Wibby and Mr. Matt Caruso reviewed existing data on UCMR analytes in the WP and determined that there is enough data to calculate acceptance criteria and concentration ranges. They will present the data to the committee for discussion at the face-to-face meeting in April.
- Mr. Larry Jackson's PT process flowchart will be added to the FAQs.
- Mr. David Friedman emailed schedule information for the QAD conference to Ms. Burmeister. The conference dates will be considered in planning the committee's upcoming face-to-face meeting.
- Ms. Burmeister will email the Program Policy and Structure Committee (Chapter 1) about the restructuring of NELAP Fields of Testing.

**Committee Membership**

The committee is losing Michele Kropilak, effective immediately. She has taken a position outside of the laboratory accreditation area. We will miss her valuable incite into the PT process.

**PT FIELDS OF TESTING AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA LIST**

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Analytes**

For the nine analytes in the UCMR list, there is enough historical data for eight of them to have acceptance criteria and concentration ranges assigned. Since perchlorate has a new method just published, the acceptance criteria will use robust statistical analysis. Mr. Matt Caruso and Mr. Chuck Wibby will present the new criteria and ranges at our face-to-face meeting.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-Water Analytes**

Language needs to be added in the rules or as guidance to the AA's when laboratories request RCRA accreditation. Chapter 2 requires that PT's be run by matrix and there are at least two matrices (soil and water) in RCRA. Therefore, the labs are required to do PT samples in the matrix they do routine samples or the matrix with the greatest challenge. For water samples in RCRA, WP PT samples will be sufficient. This issue will be clarified in a FAQ by Mr. Chuck Wibby.

### **Transition Committee Teleconference**

Now that the PT Committee has published the PT fields of testing, the Transition Committee made a recommendation on how the PT program should be implemented by the Accrediting Authorities. The committee recommended that laboratories will be expected to analyze one set of PT samples by July 1, 2000 for accreditation by that date and that laboratories must then successfully analyze a second set in the latter half of the year, for a total of 2 samples analyzed in 2000. They believe that requiring laboratories to analyze 2 PT samples by July 1, 2000 will be a significant burden on the laboratory community. The PT committee has no objection to their recommendation.

### **FACE-TO-FACE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The face-to-face PT Committee meeting will be held in Denver on April 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Chuck Wibby will arrange for a meeting place. Ms. Barbara Burmeister will formulate an agenda for the meeting by the next teleconference.

### **PT MATRIX AND FIELDS OF TESTING (REGULATORY COORDINATION COMMITTEE)**

Ms. Barbara Burmeister will email Dr. Marcia Davis, Chairperson on Chapter 1 for the status of her committee's discussions regarding the fields of testing for accreditation.

### **M&O Committee**

There has been no contact from the Membership and Outreach Committee to our liaison, Ms. Cindy Nettrour.

### **NEW COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Ms. Barbara Burmeister will respond to questions from Ralph Obenauf and Mr. Matt Caruso will respond to Ms. Jody Moss who both had questions about implementation. Both will draft responses and email to the committee members for approval.

## ACTION ITEMS

PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
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Item No.	Action	Date to be Completed
1.	Ms. Barbara Burmeister will send the Interim Guidance for Section 2.0 and the PT Fields of Testing to the Jeanne Hankins and the NELAP AA Group.	02/24/00
2.	The PT process flowchart will be added to the PT FAQs.	
3.	Mr. Matt Caruso and Mr. Chuck Wibby will bring the UCMR analyte acceptance criteria and concentration ranges to the committee's face-to-face meeting for discussion.	04/11/00
4.	Ms. Barbara Burmeister will draft a response to Mr. Ralph Obenauf's question and email it to the committee.	03/07/00
5.	Mr. Matt Caruso will draft a response to Ms. Jody Moss's question and email it to the committee.	03/07/00
6.	Ms. Barbara Burmeister will contact NIST about any other newly approved PT providers.	02/24/00

**PARTICIPANTS  
PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2000**

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